

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method of fabricating a heat exchanger comprising:
 - a) providing a plurality of generally parallel tube runs of a flattened heat exchange tube having a major dimension and a minor dimension;
 - b) providing a plurality of plate fins, each having a plurality of tube slots approximately equal to the number of tube runs, each slot opening to an edge of the associated fin and having
 - i) a shape corresponding to the cross-sectioned shape a tube run to be received in the slot,
 - ii) a depth less than the major dimension of the tube run to be received in the slot, and
 - iii) a width approximately equal to or slightly less than the minor dimension of the tube run to be received in the slot;
 - c) fitting the tube runs snugly into corresponding slots in each of the fins such that an edge of each tube run extends a distance out of the slots in which it is received;
 - d) locating the assembly resulting from step c) on a supporting surface with said tube run edges in contact with said supporting surface and with said plate fins extending above said tube runs; and

e) subjecting said assembly to an elevated temperature sufficient to braze said fin to said tube runs while said assembly is on said supporting surface and in the absence of brazing fixtures holding said fins and said tube runs in assembled relation.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said tube runs are defined by straight sections of a serpentine tube.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said tube runs are each defined by a straight piece of tubing.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cross-section of said tube runs is tear- drop shaped.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cross-section of said tube runs is oval-shaped.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said fins are curved at locations between said slots.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fins and said tube runs are formed of aluminum and/or alloys thereof.

8. (original) A method of fabricating an aluminum and/or aluminum alloy heat exchanger comprising the steps of:

- a) assembling a plurality of plate fins having open ended slots to a plurality of tube runs having the same cross-section shape as the slots such that an edge of each tube run extends a short distance out of the slots in which it is received;
- b) locating the assemblage resulting from step a) on a supporting surface with said tube run edges contacting said supporting surface and said fins above and out of contact with said supporting surface;
- c) locating an aluminum braze alloy at the interfaces of said tube runs and said fins; and
- d) subjecting the assembly resulting from the preceding steps to aluminum brazing temperatures in the absence of brazing fixtures holding said tube runs and said fins in assembled relation for a time sufficient to allow said fins to settle under gravitational forces onto said tube runs.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein step c) is performed by cladding one or both of said fins and said tube runs with said aluminum braze alloy prior to the performance of step a).

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said tube runs are of flattened tubing having a major dimension and a minor dimension and said slots have a depth somewhat less than said major dimension.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 including the step of providing the fins with curved sections between said slots.

12. (original) A method of fabrication of a heat exchanger comprising the steps of:

- a) assembling a plurality of plate fins having open ended slots to a plurality of tube runs having the same cross-section shape as the slots such that an edge of each tube run extends a short distance out of the slots in which it is received;
- b) locating the assemblage resulting from step a) on a supporting surface with said tube run edges contacting said supporting surface and said fins above and out of contact with said supporting surface; and

c) subjecting the assembly resulting from the preceding steps to brazing temperature in the absence of brazing fixtures holding said tube runs and said fins in assembled relation for a time sufficient to allow said fins to settle under gravitational forces onto said tube runs.

13-30. (cancelled)